

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

ORANGE—The Office of the County Clerk will be at Orange City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to process passports, notary public oaths, ABC identification cards (no Senior ID's), veteran licenses, and filing of Physicians Licenses. You must provide your own photo. For more info, call 973-621-4921.

MINNEAPOLIS—Publishers are encouraged to submit entries for the A. Philip Randolph "Messenger" Awards. These awards are presented to individual members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in recognition of outstanding journalism in the areas of education and civil rights. For more information, visit the Messenger Awards web site at www.messengerawards.com. Deadlines for entries for February 28th.

HOLMDEL—Join us from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Robert B. Meyer Reception Center (PNC Bank Arts Center, for a hands-on, practical, and rewarding session on Stress Management plus a deluxe luncheon. For more info, call 732-246-7877, ext. 110.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

MONTECLAIR—The Office of the County Clerk will be at Montclair Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to process passports, notary public oaths, ABC identification cards (no Senior ID's), veteran licenses, and filing of Physicians Licenses. You must provide your own photo. For more info, call 973-621-4921.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Two family law attorneys will examine divorce law in a free public seminar titled, "What Everyone Should Know About Child Custody, Child Support and Grandparents Rights" will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the NJ Law Center (off Rydals Lane). For more info, call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

NEWARK—A Valentine's Reunion for pediatric cardiac "alumni" and current pediatric cardiac patients will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Galleria Annex, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. The party will include gifts donated by Toys R Us, "I, the Magician", music, refreshments and more. For more info, call 973-826-7846.

SPRINGFIELD—Frashead HS Dramatic Arts Club presents "An Evening of Tennessee Williams. Dramatic readings at 7 p.m. in the Springfield Public Library. For more info, call 973-375-4500.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

WAYNE—Unity in Diversity* a multicultural observance, will be held through March 6th and will include lectures, arts events and performances which are free and open to the public. This program will begin at 8 p.m. For more info, call 973-720-2518.

EAST ORANGE—The Students of Essex Catholic High School will celebrate African-American history and the school's 40th anniversary at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. For more info, call 973-674-4200.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

NEW BRUNSWICK—American Repertory Ballet is offering two new classes: Dance Visions, which is open to children ages 7-11 to study rhythmic movement to music and movement in relation to other people. For more info, call 732-249-1254.

UPPER MERIDALE—"Gullah Gullah Island," Nickelodeon's hit show for young children, will bring its magic and excitement to Montclair State University's Memorial Auditorium at noon and at 3 p.m. For more info, call 973-655-5112.

BET—Teen Summit will broadcast a live special, "Promiscuity: Laying It On The Line" from Austin, TX, to present teen pregnancy. The special will air from noon to 2 p.m. For more details call 202-608-2200.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

MADISON—The NJ Theatre Group is producing "Family Week at the Theatre," the first annual statewide celebration of theatre for NJ's young people and their families, to be held through March 8th. Tickets are \$3. For more info and a comprehensive calendar, call 973-653-0189.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL—Mother Nature unleashes her wondrous might in BLIZZARD and VOLCANO. Blizzards premieres 8-9 p.m. Volcano premieres 9-10 p.m. For more info, call 301-771-3830.

MONDAY, MARCH 2

WAYNE—William Paterson University celebrates Women's History Month with a one-person presentation with actors as historical figures. "Why I Became a Woman's Rights Man," with Fred Mossell as Frederick Douglass. This will be held at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. For more info, call 973-720-2518.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

PLAINFIELD—Urban Women's Center presents women and media workshop on "Resisting Violence Against Women and Girls in Film: Images for Media Activism and Social Change," from 10 a.m. to noon at the YWCA. To register, call 908-755-3500.

Community leadership unite to honor Martin Luther King



Religious leaders and William Paterson University administrators met recently with members of the campus community to honor the legacy and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King during a day long celebration held on the campus in Wayne. The day's events focused on interpretations of King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Attending the ceremony were, from left, William Small, associate vice president of minority affairs and diversity; Father Louis Scardi, director of the Catholic Campus Ministry; Lester McKee, director of minority education; Bishop Frank J. Rodimer, Archbishop of Paterson; Rabbi Israel Dresner, rabbi emeritus of Temple Beth Tivim in Wayne, a contemporary of King's who gave the keynote address; Joann Depasquale, Catholic Campus Ministry; Myrle Kaplan, coordinator of the campus Women's Center; and Rev. David Wiley, pastor of the Wayne Presbyterian Church, a member of the Wayne Clergy Fellowship.

In agreement of new program



Participating in a ceremony creating a "Professional Development School" at Montclair High School recently were, from left, Elaine Harris, acting superintendent of Schools in Montclair; Dr. Gregory L. Waters, interim president of Montclair State University; Dr. Nicholas Mitchell, dean of the College of Education and Human Services at MSU; and Antonio Macaluso, president of the Montclair Education Association. Steve Hockstein/Harvard Studio photo.

Commemorating Dr. King Justice attorney speaks at breakfast



Daphne McFerren at right, a trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., delivered the keynote address at Jersey City State College's ninth annual "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast." Following her address, Ms. McFerren joined Lisa Ward of East Orange, director of JCSC's Lee Hagan African Studies Center, and Dr. Robert Hamburger of Manhattan, a JCSC assistant professor of English who introduced the keynote speaker, in congratulating Louise Diaz (left) of Orange, director of JCSC's College Sound Program who received the Hagan Center's first 1998 Community Service Award at the breakfast program. The breakfast was co-sponsored by JCSC's Hagan Center, African/Afro-American Studies Department, Black Freedom Society, and Black Administrators, Alumni, Faculty, Students, and Staff Organization.

New Jersey HUD executive appointed to foundation board



EAST ORANGE—East Orange General Hospital recently welcomed Diane J. Johnson to the Foundation Board. A resident of East Orange, Ms. Johnson is currently the State Coordinator of the N.J. State Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Johnson has been with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development since 1972 and has held numerous managerial positions in the office, including Deputy Manager and Acting Manager. Ms. Johnson led the New Jersey State Office in an acting capacity from February.

A native of New Jersey, Johnson attended Upsala College in East Orange and is highly involved with the community, sitting on several boards including the Board of Trustees of St. James Preparatory School and the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. She has received numerous awards and honors for community service and housing activities in the State of New Jersey. Bruce Byrne, Director of the East Orange General Hospital Foundation stated, "We are extremely proud to have a woman of Ms. Johnson's caliber, serving as a Foundation Board member for the Hospital. As a respected member of the community, Ms. Johnson understands and is committed to meeting the unique needs of the people we serve."

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BRIEFS

Coalition calls for national week of investment

WASHINGTON—The Coalition of Black Investors (COBI), has launched a National Black Investor's Week (Investment, April 20-24). The observance aims to heighten African Americans' awareness of investment and encourage them to invest more aggressively. "The unequal distribution of wealth, power and resources has stagnated growth in Black communities," said COBI president, Carol Davis. "To build wealth, African Americans must get into the habit of saving and investing, and do so at a higher rate." COBI asks that on Friday, April 24, designated as Pay Day, African Americans must deposit at least \$25 or more to deposit in a bank or invest in stocks, bonds or mutual funds. "If we participate as we did in the Million Man March and Million Woman March and the two million of us saved an average of \$50, the net worth of our collective Black community will increase \$100,000,000 in one day," said Davis.

During the Week of Investment COBI will also be sponsoring a student essay contest and calls for Black investment professionals to host seminars targeting children, young adults and investment clubs. The National Urban League has endorsed this event and Urban League chapters nationwide will host seminars. For information on investment opportunities, including a list of Black publicly-traded companies and mutual funds, visit the Black resources for locating Black financial institutions and financial advisors, visit COBI's website at www.blackinvestor.com or for more information on the Week of Investment call 910-945-8977.

Matthew Henson story comes to TNT

ATLANTA—On April 6, 1999 one of modern history's most remarkable events took place—two men entered the North Pole for the first time. One came home to a hero's welcome; the other slipped into anonymity, all but forgotten by history. Former Network 10 television presents the film biography of Matthew Henson, the unsung hero of Commander Robert E. Peary's famed North Pole expedition, in "Glory and Honor," a TNT Original adventure-drama. Delroy Lindo ("Malcolm X," "Clockers") plays the role of Henson, the first Black man to conquer the Arctic, with Henry Czerny ("Clear and Present Danger," "Mission: Impossible") as Robert E. Peary, a civil engineer, was consumed with reaching the North Pole. He hired Henson to his personal valet in the early 1890s and during the 18 years of association and nine attempts to the North Pole, Henson—by virtue of the fact that he learned to communicate with the Inuit people, served as Peary's translator and drove the dog sled team—became indispensable to expedition.

Henson lived his life after conquering the North Pole quietly and humbly. The glory was 79 years later, when, on April 6, 1988, his body was moved from a cemetery in New York and reinterred with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery—next to Peary. On the 1988 tombstone, Henson is at last recognized with being the "discoverer of the North Pole." "Glory and Honor" premieres on Sunday, March 1 at 8 p.m. with encore presentations scheduled throughout the month, check your local listings.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Kenya still using DDT despite ban

NAKURU, Kenya (PANA)—Water samples from Kenya's Lake Nakuru, a natural habitat for flamingos and other exotic birds, show the presence of dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane, a toxic insecticide commonly known as DDT. Kenya banned DDT's importation a decade ago.

Environmentalists say samples from the lake, a tourist haven because of its abundant wildlife, show that the DDT in the lake is in its parent form. This means the chemical was not recently introduced into the saline lake. Conservationist Ramesh Thampi of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature said it is the only chemical still being imported under another label. He said the survival of the lake, a designated wetland site, was also being endangered by the encroachment of its catchment area by farmers who use fertilizers and other pesticides that eventually end up in the lake. This is even more significant because the lake has no outlet. Thampi said better waste disposal management in the town of Nakuru, including the handling of garbage, is needed if the lake is to survive as a useful natural resource.

Positive feedback bias may limit minorities' success in school

WASHINGTON—White students tend to evaluate essays written by Black students less critically than white students, according to research to be reported in the March issue of the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, published by the American Psychological Association (APA).

The studies, conducted by Stanford University psychologist Kent D. Harber, Ph.D., are some of the first to analyze inter-racial feedback, in which Whites evaluate the academic task of a minority and then communicate their performance assessments to that person. Dr. Harber analyzed written comments and grading ratings by nearly 200 White undergraduates on essays of comparable length, quality, and format submitted by either a White or a Black fellow student in both studies.

White students who believed that the essay writer was Black provided more positive and less critical feedback than the essay than did White students who believed that the essay writer was White. In addition, the tone of summary comments addressed to the Black writer tended to be more supportive than those addressed to the White writer. Students directed their harshest comments to the White writer.

Dr. Harber found that the positive feedback bias was largely restricted to essays that had a quality rating in the strength of argument. There was no significant difference in the feedback regarding essay mechanics (grammar, spelling, or structure) due to the use of the supposed writer. The positive bias may be confined to essay content since content criticism is more interpersonally sensitive, in that it reflects on a writer's

thinking and beliefs. Criticism of mechanics may appear more objective, and therefore less prejudiced, than content criticism since established rules regarding mechanics appear in dictionaries and stylebooks.

"The positive feedback bias may present serious costs for minorities," says Dr. Harber. Excess praise and insufficient criticism in academics may deprive minority students of the mental challenges educators view as critical for intellectual growth. Blacks' wariness of praise and criticism demonstrated in previous studies, may compound the ill-effects of inflated feedback. These findings may help explain why certain stereotypes are highly vulnerable to what Stanford University psychologist Claude M. Steele, Ph.D., labels "academic disidentification," the phenomenon in which success of failure in school ceases

to matter to the student.

Research on third party evaluations, where evaluation is communicated to someone other than the person being judged, has shown that Whites often judge minorities with undue harshness. Dr. Harber believes that the negative bias in third party evaluations, coupled with the positive bias in direct feedback, puts minorities in a difficult situation. "Minorities are placed in a dilemma," Dr. Harber says. "If both direct and indirect evaluations from Whites are prone to biases—positive as well as negative—then it becomes difficult for minorities to determine how they have acquired themselves." While the study was conducted in an academic environment, Dr. Harber concludes that future research should investigate whether the positive feedback bias also occurs in the work place and in social settings.

Lowery urges President Clinton to seek diplomatic solutions in Middle East

ATLANTA—Declaring that the risk of killing innocent civilians, including women and children, is too great, the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, President Emeritus of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, urged President Clinton to continue to seek non-military answers to the complex questions in the Iraq crisis. Lowery, who also chairs the Black Leadership Forum, said, "sending smart bombs on dumb missions won't resolve the crisis in the Middle East today any more than it did under the Bush Administration when reportedly thousands of civilians were killed."

Lowery urged the president to work with and through the world community in the United Nations to address the volatile situation. "The high moral ground of negotiations, rather than the destructive horrors of war, is the better course for the world's 'greatest power,'" said Lowery.

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Danger on the Farkkhan Void Tour

MAHACHKALA, Russia—As a Black History Month began in the United States, the Honorable Louis Farrakhan and his delegation traveling on the "Nation of Islam Tour" escaped from a dangerous confrontation with Russian military forces and elements of the KGB—the dreaded spy agency in this Russian Federation's national capital of the Islamic state called Dagestan.

Minister Farrakhan and his "Black Muslims" companions were embraced like long-lost kin by the Caucasian "White Muslims" in Moscow. In Yuzhny, the capital of Siberia, and here in Mahachkala; Russian government authorities gave every obstacle you can imagine—including attempted kidnappings of the leader of the "Nation of Islam." Ironically, there is a two-year-old "Nation of Islam Congress" in the Caucasus Mountains where the mother of Master W.D. Fard was born. Fard, born in the Holy City Mecca, is the Teacher of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and the man who established the "Lost-Found Nation of Islam" in North America.

In harassment of the Muslim delegation began when the pilgrims landed in a private chartered 777 jet at Moscow International Airport. After four hours of frustrating delay, Minister Farrakhan and his delegation was charged \$150 per person for entry visas. The customary visa fee is just \$25. They were given a four-hour delay when the Muslim leader sought to leave Moscow for Siberia on Friday, January 30. The delay that Minister Farrakhan and his Siberian hosts were unable to arrive at the Yuzhny Mosque in time for the obligatory Salat-ul-Jumma (congregational prayer).

Leaving Siberia, there was another four-hour delay, this time until late at night. Siberian airport officials demanded—in addition to their ability to harass and delay—their understanding of the "new capitalism," and the loss of central state control, by literally exporting thousands of dollars in inflated airport fees...fees for which the airport officials were also mysteriously unable to produce a receipt.

Approaching the Mahachkala Airport, the airplane carrying Minister Farrakhan and his delegation made a dangerous landing attempt, pulling up short, dramatically just seconds before touchdown. One member of the Farrakhan delegation exclaimed, "It was as soon as the plane pulled up the first time, I thought immediately of (former U.S. Commerce Secretary) Ron Brown. Under the command of Captain Vener,

Iqbal, a Canadian Muslim, the airplane narrowly avoided a tragedy.

There was another tense stand-off. Uniformed Russian military forces surrounded the Prime Minister's (Gaidar) House on the banks of the Caspian Sea where Minister Farrakhan was staying, in the middle of the night, placing the entire delegation—the only guests at the hotel at that time—literally under "house arrest."

Minister Farrakhan had expressed a desire to travel to Chechnya, the break away Muslim region which fought more than 250,000 Russian troops to a stalemate over their desire for independence. Many Muslims from Dagestan, led by Brother Nurdinshah Khachiyev, fought alongside their Muslim brothers for Chechnyan independence. The heavily armed Russian soldiers only withdrew from around the hotel after dark, when the Minister Farrakhan dropped his plans to travel by land, deciding instead to leave the country.

Khachiyev, who was one of Minister Farrakhan's guests at the World Islamic Peoples' Leadership Conference in Chicago last July, is a high-ranking official in the Russian Duma (Parliament). A sixth-degree black-belt martial artist, who apparently wears a .45 caliber pistol at all times, even inside his own home, indicated the gravity of the tense situation when he arrived with members of his militia, but was only permitted by Russian authorities to enter the compound alone. When he arrived he was armed with an AK-47 assault rifle.

Eventually it was only the expressed willingness of Khachiyev's militia to defend Minister Farrakhan and his delegation with their lives, that averted a potential catastrophe. The tragedy which would likely have been explained away to outsiders as "an unfortunate accident."

"They wanted us to leave in peace, not in peace," a source in the delegation said after observing Russian soldiers on the airport tarmac and on top of the airport building, release the safety-devices on their automatic weapons, and place in firing position when the Muslim Minister Farrakhan stepped the terminal on his final departure from Russia.

"Despite our rude treatment," Minister Farrakhan recalled after leaving Russia, "I told our translators to had tears in his eyes when we finally boarded the plane, that our love for our country was not at all diminished by our treatment indeed!" This Farrakhan World Tour, despite occasional moments in beautiful locations, if definitely not your "Club Med-vacation" tour.

WorldCom's record of exclusion • WorldCom is a nonunion company governed by a board of fifteen White males—they are the only one-piece, gender board of a major telecommunications company.

• White females or women sit on WorldCom's Executive Committee.

• WorldCom has already announced plans to move its headquarters out of the American people as a means of stimulating competition. It has failed to do so. Rather, it has increased market concentration in fewer and fewer companies, discouraged entry and participation of small and minority businesses, restricted diversity of opinion and perspective, increased prices for consumers, and reduced consumer choices.

And now in just a few months, millions of Americans could face dramatic increases in long distance telephone rates as a result of a proposed merger of telecommunications giants, MCI and WorldCom.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH coalition has called on the FCC to impose a moratorium on major media and telecommunications mergers until the FCC can establish standards for evaluating whether a merger benefits consumers and promotes minority entrepreneurship and employment.

If the MCI/WorldCom merger is finalized... • The companies will control 75 percent of the long distance telephone market.

• MCI/WorldCom will control 60 percent of the Internet backbone over which all Internet traffic flows.

• MCI/WorldCom will almost certainly downsize, sending thousands of people to unemployment lines.

UNICEF warns of malnutrition peril

PARIS—Malnutrition contributes to nearly seven million child deaths every year—more than any infectious disease, war or natural disaster, according to the 1998 State of the World's Children Report recently published by UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

The persistence of malnutrition has profound and frightening implications for children, society, and the future of humankind," said UNICEF Executive Director, Carol Bellamy. "Yet this worldwide crisis has stirred little public alarm, despite substantial and growing scientific evidence of the danger."

"While there are some dramatic reductions in malnutrition in some parts of the world, the overall number of malnourished children is on the rise. No less

than half of all children under the age of five in South Asia and one-third of those in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as millions of children in industrialized countries, are malnourished."

"Malnutrition is not a simple matter of whether a child can satisfy his or her appetite," Bellamy said. "A child who eats enough to avoid immediate hunger can still be malnourished. Good nutrition relies on a combination of adequate nutritious food, good health services and proper care for both pregnant women and children."

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Welcome, Mr. Bond

It was gratifying to learn that Julian Bond has been elected chairman of the NAACP. This tough but gentle man has been in the forefront of the civil rights struggle for more than 30 years, marched with Dr. King and was denied his elected seat in the Georgia House of Representatives because of his opposition to the Vietnam war.

Many see Bond and the NAACP as advocates for black people. While this is particularly true, this person and this organization in fact stand for all people. His statement upon taking his post as chairman bears this out: "Colored people come in all colors. We want to reach out to emerging Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, Native Americans, Asians and white Americans." The focus of the NAACP as stated upon its creation in 1909 is to "stand for the rights of men, irrespective of color or race, for the highest ideals of American democracy." In his years in the struggle, Julian Bond has internalized the wider vision, walked the higher road, and is all-inclusive in the struggle for racial equality.

As Myrtle Evers-Williams leaves this pivotal role to perpetuate her late husband's legacy, and Bond steps into the position to take it towards the millennium, they are to be further admired for the work they've done and the stand they take.

The GOP: Goin' Fishin'

By George Wilson

Even if you're been trying to avoid it, you can't help being splattered with the news of the allegations against President Clinton over the alleged affair with a young intern. Media outlets have been literally tripping over each other to report the latest hot news tip or rumor concerning the President's troubles. However, in spite of a river of news, print and mountain of rhetoric from all types of pundits, all we have to date are allegations and circumstances that might have produced a scandal to make the charge true.

So, what is really going on here? So-called conservatives and a few others are railing about President's lack of integrity and morality. Apparently, some of these folks haven't done even basic research on the behavior of some of the nation's most esteemed personalities. Among them are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In spite of the indiscretions of these great Americans, I have yet to read of how anyone calling for buildings to be

renamed or of any historical writings which indicate that there was a movement to have any of them impeached. In the case of Bill Clinton, it didn't take long to hear the word "impeachment" bandied about with reckless abandon. It seems a bit of a reach to go from inappropriate behavior between consenting adults to removal from the nation's highest office. Perjury and obstruction of justice are two different matters. If it is proven that the President violated the law, he should get the same punishment that any other citizen would receive.

The most disgusting aspect of this whole sordid mess is that it diverts attention from things that are certainly more important. While too many focus on the President's alleged love of young interns, young African-American males are being targeted for slots in prison or unemployment. Finally, the President will be right. I'm not sure I can offer the same forecast for many of our youth.

George Wilson is a veteran Capitol Hill correspondent for the American Urban Radio Network.

Part II When President Clinton visits Africa...

By Kwame Ansah

The White House has announced that President Bill Clinton will visit Africa in March 1998 to express his support for the continent. The trip includes promotion of democracy and economic investments. The other sitting African-American Presidents who visited independent Africa were Jimmy Carter in 1977 and Franklin Roosevelt who participated in the historic wartime Casablanca Conference in 1943.

Clinton's proposed trip here is especially annual to a summit conference with leaders like Achebe of Nigeria, President DR Congo, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, President S. Africa, Rawlings of Ghana, Qaddafi of Libya, Museveni of Uganda and others, to embrace common strategies for dealing with neo-colonialism. All leaders who have joined the struggle for the liberation of Africa from foreign domination should be invited to participate.

The United States should make clear to Asia and Europe that Africa is for Africans and, accept strategies that include such doctrine.

African-American strategic advisors should not hesitate to use a decoupling of political-economic forces in the Brussels-Paris-Rome-Zurich axis, to include South Africa, as a threat or under-belly to western interests, and thus in terms of European influence or pericardial populations. Military operations should be removed from Africa, and commitments sought to prevent armament training, sales, credits and technology to Africa, as these are known to use such for population control.

The President should advise the Secretary General of NATO (and respective Heads of State) that America no longer views Africa as a threat or under-belly to western interests, and thus in terms of European influence or pericardial populations. Military operations should be removed from Africa, and commitments sought to prevent armament training, sales, credits and technology to Africa, as these are known to use such for population control.

After more than 100 years of American cooperation with Europeans in development of foreign policy toward Africa, it is time to attack "Fortress Europe's" concepts that have

Parents and Teachers Take Schools into Their Own Hands

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

Debbie Lazarus and Sandra Oxford are activists in the charter school movement. They are both founders of the Mid-Hudson Advocates for Charter Schools in New York. Charter schools, currently authorized under half the states, are schools funded by tax dollars but initiated by parents, teachers, and community activists. Charter schools are a critical step in the desegregation and improving our school system.

When Debbie Lazarus' daughter was in the 7th grade, she started having difficulty in school. Her grades were dropping and she was bored. Parent meetings with her teacher didn't change the situation. Meanwhile, Lazarus—who is a teacher—was coordinating a Dual Language program. This is a method of teaching children where first language is not English. It puts native English-speaking and non-English speaking students in the same class, and both languages are taught. The program is taught—so the kids learn each other's languages and no language is subservient. The program was a great success, but the "powerful lobby" in the district didn't like it, so it was not renewed.

Sandra Oxford is also a parent of children in the public school system. She works as a mediator, doing conflict and dispute resolution. There are three state paraprofessionals at her school where she lives. She said she was shocked by her realization of how much influence the prison system has on the school district. The focus and

energy in the schools is on punishing, not educating.

She herself was given the Parent of the Year Award by the New York State Association of Bilingual Educators for her role in trying to organize the community to save the Dual Language Program that Lazarus was coordinating. She said it was "a major program" and was a competitive grant from the state. It is the only form of bilingual education that doesn't segregate language learners.

Since 1991, when a Minnesota law pioneered state charters, charter schools have grown in popularity. There were 252 operating in the 1995-1996 school year; there were 42X by 1997 (in 29 states plus DC). They have an estimated enrollment of 103,000.

Charter schools offer: smaller school size, heavy parent involvement, more hands-on learning through the use of technology, longer class periods, innovative ways of gauging student achievement, diverse student enrollments.

Debbie Lazarus and Sandra Oxford are two parent-educators who are looking for innovative and grassroots programs to improve education and to challenge and develop our children. They and millions more like them will make the government's movement a powerful success in the years to come.

Lenora B. Fulani is currently a leading activist in the Reform Party and chairs the Committee for a United Independent Party.

America must opt for peace

By Carolyn L. Bennett

Peace makes a future possible. And war ends all possibility of a future because it ends life and the hope for peace.

Again this past week the government of the United States threatened war with Iraq. And the press echoed it on. On the front page last Friday's New York Times, one analyst said the president's war goal fell short of the mark.

In the article, Bernard Trainor said: if the president "were to broaden his goals to inflict maximum damage on the Baghdad regime, without the stated goal of destroying it"—the president "could target—to mean, I presume, kill—Mr. Hussein and the entire around him."

This country ought not to go down that road again because the American people's interests are served, not harmed, by peaceful action. Ordinary people may say this now.

Peace of America, talk to your government. Talk your president and congressional representatives by mail and e-mail and phone and telegram this week. Tell them the country's peace must be put to healing the people and the institutions and the cities of America. The United States is the drug addict. The neighborhoods are the school and bridges and families and children need feeding and fixing. The economic system is broken. The people are sick and some people. But many are unhelped. And it may not be helping you and your neighbors.

And, despite the presidential dialogue on race, racism still warps the minds and possibility of people in the United States and work places and schools, and everywhere. War will take people's minds off these pressing problems.

Come and be black for me

By Ethel Morgan Smith

I'm glad February is almost over. It's during this month that everyone is looking for me—or rather, anyone who can come and be black for them. I'm the only African-American professor in my university department of 50 faculty members. I reside in a predominantly white and male land-grant state university with about Ethel Morgan Smith 20,000 students. Five percent of whom are African-American.

During February, my mailbox is overflowing. Most of the mail wants me to represent "my people" for some worthwhile organization during the month of February and February only. The tone is pleasant, but generally angry. Some. Most often the tone is not pleasant.

I've had letters that point out to me some words—that they are paying my salary and they rightfully deserve a piece of me. The least I can do, these letters imply, is come and be black. For them, I dump those requests in my recycling bin.

I also get numerous calls. A pleasant woman from the arts council needed someone to attend her luncheon book club meeting at her house. One of my colleagues, whom I haven't even met, gave her my telephone number. The group is thinking of including a black writer on its reading list next year. I accept her pleasant invitation. It doesn't conflict with my calendar. I can be black that Wednesday.

lents at home. It will allow people to enjoy country unity for a time. And, for the time being, it may get the press off his back for a while.

The United States leadership must stand the ground of peace and against its own inclination in the situation with Iraq. Not now nor ever again should America use its might of mass destruction to threaten the people of Iraq.

Peace requires the U.S. president to do what Kennedy did not do. President Clinton must travel the distance and make a man the government's official called America's enemy. A truly great nation is unafraid of meeting with personal enemies for the peace of the world.

Peace needs friends. And all friends need not be democrats or free marketeers. The United States itself is not a democracy nor are its markets entirely free. Power and privilege are concentrated and market share is centralized. And not average Americans, but more share in the benefits of the market and a full democracy than people under dictatorships in the Middle East and elsewhere.

And only fools believe that a nation with weapons of mass destruction is the best ground for peace and against its own inclination in the situation with Iraq. Not now nor ever again should America use its might of mass destruction to threaten the people of Iraq.

The American people must take the principle of democracy by joining their voices to the voices of the elected officials who support peace and the path to get there. Tell them, in the U.S. citizens with the right to elect officials, you want them to follow the path of peace.

Carolyn L. Bennett is a columnist in Washington and lecturer at Howard University.

Political Analysis FIELD ASSIGNMENT An assault on the black community

By Walter Fields

Iraq

The standoff between the United States and Iraq appears to be heading toward a full-fledged confrontation. Iraq's refusal to abide by a United Nations resolution curbing the manufacture and use of chemical and biological weapons has heightened tensions in the Middle East. Repeated attempts by the United States to inspect suspected Iraqi weapons sites have been met with resistance by Baghdad. The White House has rebuffed alternative arrangements, offered by Iraq, providing limited access to U.S. inspectors. Fear is growing that a diplomatic resolution may not be possible and a repeat of the Persian Gulf War is inevitable.

In recent weeks the United States has given every indication that it is prepared to use force against Saddam Hussein. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, and Secretary of State Madeline Albright has been making the rounds with allies, seeking their commitment to an offensive against Hussein. This far, she has had limited success. The United Kingdom, Canada and Australia have pledged their support. The Arab nations have been less enthusiastic about a possible U.S. engagement in the Middle East. For most, it is too close for comfort. In private, many Arab leaders have expressed their disapproval of Hussein. Publicly, they have been less willing to confront the Iraqi leader for fear of coming under attack themselves. The Israeli government has also discouraged the U.S. from pursuing a military solution. Our strongest ally in the Middle East, Israel, came out in support of Iraq during the 1991 conflict.

Secretary of Defense William Cohen has been overseeing a massive buildup of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. Aircraft carriers, combat fighters and bombers have been stationed in the Gulf. In addition, the U.S. is bolstering its forces in Kuwait. Combat jets are at the ready in Bahrain and B-52 bombers are on standby on Diego Garcia, the British-controlled island in the Indian Ocean. Saudi Arabia, however, has insisted that no U.S. strikes be launched from Prince Sultan Airport where more than 100 U.S. military aircraft are based.

Advice to the President's initiative on race

WASHINGTON—The Poverty & Race Research Action Council, a Washington, DC-based research and advocacy group, asked a number of thoughtful critics to provide some advice that might help President Clinton's beleaguered race initiative and its Advisory Board, headed by historian John Hope Franklin, focus more on issues of racial justice and institutional racism—rather than the hollow "dialogue" racial harmony approach the Initiative is taking. Twenty-seven such forces in Kenya. Combat jets are at the ready in Bahrain and B-52 bombers are on standby on Diego Garcia, the British-controlled island in the Indian Ocean. Saudi Arabia, however, has insisted that no U.S. strikes be launched from Prince Sultan Airport where more than 100 U.S. military aircraft are based.

"The most important thing President Clinton's panel on race ought to do is to find a way to get Americans' attention to the issue of race. The panel's job is to identify the privileges they enjoy because of their race," Julian Bond, American vice president of the National Urban Radio Network, said.

"Political issues are emerging that exploit tensions between—and within minority communities," he said. Bond needs to convene sessions that deal with conflicts between minority groups.

Michael Oni, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley Dept. of Ethnic Studies, said: "Objective conditions of concentrated poverty will not be cured by conversation, but only by concrete measures that offer opportunity. Living in concentrated poverty creates barriers and conditions that are difficult to overcome. Mr. Clinton should pledge now that the end result will be a comprehensive portfolio to extend opportunity to all Americans, regardless of race, and to ensure that the barriers of discrimination and deprivation, are worst off in our society. He should acknowledge that crushing such a proposal will take more than a year."

William L. Taylor, Leadership Conf. on Civil Rights, said: "The President's advisory program for America's workers, if it doesn't one issue about race relations, it's that prejudice, bigotry and discrimination demand that we, as Americans, who want to work, have a job at decent wages."

Peter Dreier, Occidental College Public Policy Program, said:

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Local Briefs

Zisa/Caraballo bill would criminalize inmate stalking

TRENTON—The Assembly Judiciary Committee today released legislation that would prohibit inmates and parolees from using the state's right-to-know law to help them stalk, intimidate, or harass one of their crime victims.

The bill (A-1018) is sponsored by Assembly Associate Minority Leader Charles "Kari" Zisa and Wilfredo Caraballo to help protect the privacy of crime victims.

"When criminals go to jail, they not only should surrender their right to freedom, they should surrender their right-to-know privileges as well," said Zisa (D-Bergen). "The right-to-know does not give anyone—especially criminals—the right to intimidate or harass."

New Jersey's right-to-know guarantees should not be subverted by criminals so they can conduct a campaign of terror against their victims or their loved ones, said Caraballo (D-Essex). "Crime victims should not live in fear of reprisal when their attackers are punished. This measure will ensure that protection occurs."

The Zisa/Caraballo measure is a response to crime victims who have complained about inmates and parolees using the right-to-know law to obtain public records containing identifying information of a victim or a victim's family. The information enabled felons to keep track of a victim's whereabouts, even while behind bars or after a victim moved or changed jobs.

Newark releases its first brochure on culture and recreation

NEWARK—Mayor Sharpe James announced today that the City of Newark has just released its 1998 Recreation and Cultural Brochure. The publication highlights many of Newark's "cultural jewels" and lists ward by ward the recreational facilities and the activities each provides to the residents of Newark.

The brochure is divided into several sections: Cultural Facilities, City-Wide Activities, Recreation facilities in the five wards of the city, Senior Citizen Centers, and Parks. "We want both residents and visitors to know about some of Newark's best kept secrets," Mayor James said.

To obtain a copy of the pamphlet, residents and visitors should call 733-8004. Civic groups, schools, travel agencies, and organizations are also required to 10 or more copies are asked to submit their requests in writing to The Newark Public Information Office, Newark City Hall 920 Broad Street, Room 214, Newark, New Jersey 07102. Requests will be granted according to the supply available.

Newark—Elizabeth rail link model on display

NEWARK—A model depicting the proposed route for the Newark segment of the Newark-Elizabeth Light Rail Link System is on display in the Rounds of Newark's City Hall. Mayor Sharpe James announced today.

"We encourage residents to visit City Hall and review the proposed route for the Newark segment of the rail link project," James said. "We are proud that we were able to work with New Jersey Transit to devise a route for the rail link which will increase residents accessibility to areas within the City."

The model, which was created by Wilson Woodridge Architects for BRW, Inc., is a scaled representation that maps the light rail route connecting downtown Newark to the Newark International Airport. Plans for the current route extend Newark's existing City Subway from Penn Station to the Broad Street Station and would provide service to the proposed baseball stadium, the Passaic River Waterfront Park and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The route also includes a stop called municipal square which will serve the three government buildings located between Green and E. Kinney Streets.

Upon completion, the 8.8 mile transit link project also will connect the airport to downtown Elizabeth.

YOUTH CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

NEPTUNE—The Northeast District National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., will hold its bi-annual Youth Conference March 7 at Neptune Middle School.

Workshops will include, College Preparation, STD Awareness and Keys to a Successful Program. Due to the subject matter of some of the workshops, written parental permission is required.

Registration is \$15, which includes lunch, registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Anyone interested please contact Valynne Simons 609-774-1802, or the District Youth leader Shaundra McRae 212-631-6890.

African American History celebration a great success

By Bobbi C. Campbell

The 1998 African-American History nine day Celebration was held in the Heath Center at the Tatum Park Activity Center on Red Hill Road in Middletown, NJ. The sponsor of this year's celebration was Lucent Technologies/Bell Labs Innovations. The variety of free cultural programs were exceptionally entertaining, inspirational, and educational.

The Celebration kicked off with an opening reception featuring an address by Gail Thompson, AIA, vice-president for the design and construction of the newly-opened New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Ms. Thompson is also a licensed pilot and a flight instructor.

Other events during the nine days included a moving and entertaining performance was presented by members of the talented group "Pro-Vision." Members of this group call themselves contemporary "griots." These five men, who, through music and inspiring anecdotes, told their individual stories of recovery from

negative lifestyles and addictions. Their unique style of gospel music blends personal stories, original lyrics, and scripture with spirit-filled harmony that appeals to all generations. They are known throughout New Jersey as both role models and mentors to young people.

Yet another event, called "The Urban Grid," brought African culture to life through legend, song and dance, accompanied by authentic African instruments. Students from grades K-2, 3 and 5 attended the performances.

Local artists brought to life Sarah Bradford's biography of Harriet Tubman, the "Moses of Her People." This humorous and affectionate portrait of Bradford's friend and contemporary, recalls the Underground Railroad, Harriet's escape, and her work as a Union spy. The two performances were also attended by grammar school children.

The next presentation, was an interpretation of the African Burial Ground, given by the Office of Public Education. They covered the recent



Mary Phillips stands next to one of her displays

rediscovery and excavation of a 17th-18th century African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan. The importance of this discovery is just coming to light as the examination and analysis of the over 300 individuals buried there continues.

A unique, multicultural collection of art was presented by several renowned artists. Their works celebrating African American culture and history were displayed. Also included in this exhibit was artwork by children from the Red Bank Primary School. Among those whose work was displayed

were Jacquie Caldwell (oils), Sarah McGee and Mary Phillips (oils and pastels), Beth Robinson (oils), Michael Skaggs (photographs), Dane Tilghman (photographs), Cynthia Toffey (mixed media), and Charles Trott (pencil and mixed media). The exhibits were on display through the entire nine days.

The series of celebrations concluded with the presentation of "The Underground Railroad," an entertaining and moving performance by RTG Productions.



Freeholder Chester Holmes

Holmes makes debut as Freeholder

Chester Holmes of Rahway set the tone for his term as a Union County Freeholder at a reorganization meeting recently.

Freeholder Holmes stated that he is concerned about young people, and that he would dedicate himself to make Union County a better place for them. "We all should give something back, to help the next generation as the one before helped us. If we felt that an important opportunity was missing when we were very young, we owe it to the young people of today to try and place that opportunity within their grasp."

He noted that among the many

challenges the freeholders face are finding a location for a new juvenile detention facility, and problems that include a funding battle between the state and the county, as well as overcrowding.

The Freeholder said he was not daunted. "I don't believe I was elected to run away from problems," he said. "I want to be a part of the solution."

Other issues concerning Freeholder Holmes include rebuilding that at Lawrence Street Bridge in Rahway, focusing on the county's roadways, making sure the solid-waste situation is resolved to ensure the lowest rate possible, and stabilizing and reducing taxes.

Assemblyman responds to rise in Central Jersey prostitution

TRENTON — Assemblyman Gerald Green recently announced he has introduced legislation that would enable judges to impose tougher criminal penalties in prostitution cases and seize the driver licenses — and possibly the driver's vehicles — of prostitutes and john's.



Assemblyman Gerald Green

The measure (A-1689) would make prostitution charges an indictable offense subject to adjudication by a state Superior Court judge. Prostitution currently is considered a disorderly persons offense with trials heard in the municipal court level.

"People who engage in sex-for-hire activities should merit their ways because they are not only going to be risking a lot more than arrest and a fine in the future," said Green (D-Union). "They are going to be risking identity, aggressive prosecution, a greater likelihood of incarceration, and a mandatory loss of driving privileges."

"This measure would hit all quarters of the prostitution trade in this state," Green said.

Green's legislation is in response to increased prostitution activity in the Central Jersey region over the past years, including cases and arrests in Westfield, Hillside, Plainfield, Rahway, and Elizabeth.

Green said the rise in prostitution has caught the attention of the Union County Prosecutor's Office, which recently instructed local police departments to be more vigilant in looking out for sex-for-sale activities and houses of prostitution. He said law enforcement expects suspect some of the increased prostitution activity may stem from recent police crackdowns of street walkers and high-price call girls in New York City.

Green said his bill has already

generated bipartisan interest by other lawmakers. He said Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine (R-Union) has signed onto the measure as a co-sponsor and 18 other Assembly members are listed as co-sponsors. Green said he anticipates Senator C. Louis Bassano (R-Union) will soon introduce a Senate companion measure.

"We recognize that prostitution may not be new to Central Jersey, but the trend indicates that this sex-for-hire activity is spreading to the suburbs," said Green. "Clearly, something needs to be done to ensure the situation does not reach epidemic proportions."

Green's prostitution crack-down bill contains three major provisions:

Elevate the crime of "engaging in prostitution" to an indictable fourth-degree crime, which is punishable by up to 18 months in jail and \$10,000 in fines. Prostitution currently is classified as a disorderly persons offense punishable by up to six months in jail and up to \$1,000 in fines.

Require judges to suspend for six months the driving privileges of any offender who is convicted of engaging in prostitution.

Amend the state's forfeiture laws to allow the seizure of motor vehicles from individuals convicted of prostitution, provided the vehicles were used in the commission of the offense.

The enhanced penalties are justified because prostitution often is associated with other criminal activity, notably illicit drug sales. He also said prostitution is responsible for the spread of many communicable diseases.

Green said another major concern is the fact that women in Plainfield have actually been approached by john's courting the downtown streets at all hours of the day.

"Women can't even walk the streets without john's stopping them for a favor," said Green. "We want the courts to play hardball against this joint activity of pimps, prostitutes and john's."

Conover coaches winning ways



FREEHOLD—Scott Conover, coach of one of the foundation's teams, the Freehold Tarheels, talks with the team during half-time. This is the second year for the Scott Conover Youth Foundation Basketball League. The league has fourteen teams in its 5th and 6th grade division, and its 7th and 8th grade division. Teams from Fort Monmouth, Howell, Long Branch, Rumson, Millstone, Holmdel, and Spring Lake are also in the county-wide league. The games are played in the Freehold Intermediate School and the Fort Monmouth Youth Center.

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Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital is offering a Balance Disorder Support Group at 7 p.m. at the Community Health Services Building. For more info, call 201-833-7182.

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital is offering a Yoga Beginners Program through March 30th from 7 to 8:15 p.m. at the Community Health Services Building. For more info, call 201-833-7182.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

JERSEY CITY—A course, "Compulsive Gambling" will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Jersey City State College. For more info, call 201-200-3089.

BELLEVILLE—Clara Maass Medical Center has a variety of dietitian positions available with the Medical Center. For more info, call 1-800-CLARA MAASS.

PISCATAWAY—Rugers' Child Development Laboratory is seeking child-care providers for its ongoing study. To see if photographs and other objects can be used to jog a child's memory. For more info, call 732-445-3814.

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital's CPR Training Center is offering cardiopulmonary resuscitation and Basic First Aid training programs from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Basic First Aid only from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in School of Nursing, Rooms E14 and E15. For more info, call 201-833-7246.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

NEW BRUNSWICK—An Overeaters Anonymous Support Group will meet every Sunday through the month of March in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's Board Room. For more info, call 732-937-8820.

NEW BRUNSWICK—An Environmental Stress Management Support Group will meet at 12:30 p.m. in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's Board Room. For more info, call 732-937-8820.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A Family with Manic Depression Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's Board Room. For more info, call 732-937-8820.

MONDAY, MARCH 2

ELIZABETH—A low-cost cancer screening for women over 40 will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 208 Commerce Plaza. The screening includes a Pap test, cervical and breast exam and blood pressure check. For more info, call 908-351-5384.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A Breast Cancer Support Group will meet today and March 16th at 7 p.m. at the NJ Cancer Institute of NJ, 195 Little Liberty Street. For more info, call 732-235-6781.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A Gastric By-Pass Support Group will meet today and March 16th at 7 p.m. at the NJ Cancer Institute of NJ, 195 Little Liberty Street. For more info, call 732-937-8820.

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital will offer a Free Blood Pressure Screening from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Community Health Services Building. For more info, call 201-833-7182.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital is offering Massage Therapy sessions on Tuesday through March 31st from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Community Health Services Building, exam room 2. For more info, call 201-833-7182.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A Bereavement Support Group will meet Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. through April 7th at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. For more info, call 732-937-8804. Registration is required.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A Lamaze/Preparation for Childbirth Course will be held every Tuesday through March 31st at 7:15 p.m. at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. For more info, call 732-937-8820. Registration is required.

MHS Health Plan participates in Plainfield program

PLAINFIELD—In an effort to provide total health care to its members, MHS Health Plan has teamed up with Communities in Schools of Plainfield at Stillman School to lend a hand in helping with the educational needs of Stillman's population. On a recent visit to the school, MHS Chairwoman Karen L. Clark, in back row at second from left, met with fourth graders who demonstrated to her their knowledge and understanding of the New York Stock Exchange and the value of other in-class programs initiated through the Communities in Schools project. Shown with Ms. Clark in front row from left are: Jason Fort, Sergio Reyes, Marco Munoz; in second row from left, Veronica Garcia, Katherine Flores, Tanisha Tyler; in third row from

Quick response to local tuberculosis cases

By g.r. mott

Health officials at Bloomfield College are past the halfway point in the testing of 141 students and faculty who had close contact with a student who died from tuberculosis in Beth Israel Medical Center on January 29.

Patients and employees at a Cedar Grove nursing home where the student, a 24-year-old native of Haiti, worked part time have also been tested. Three residents and three employees have positive skin tests, but the medical director of the facility stressed that the all had negative chest X-rays and are exhibiting no symptoms and some have come up with positive skin tests.

Both the nursing home and Bloomfield College have cooperated

fully with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. "Bloomfield College is deeply saddened by this loss and is responding quickly to provide information and services to the entire College community," said Bloomfield College President John Noonan.

"We are providing a couple of information sessions daily for the past week," said Peggy Heller, Director of Communications, Bloomfield College. "We are testing those who came in close contact with the individual as required by law, and we are testing any member of the college community who makes a request."

Other cases of Tuberculosis have recently developed in high schools in Jersey City, Clifton and Hackensack,

where testing has recently begun after a report of a student with an active case of TB.

Tuberculosis, or TB, is a bacterial infection that primarily attacks the lungs. It is spread by tiny germs that can float in the air. The TB germs may spray into the air if a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, or speaks. Anyone nearby can breathe TB germs into their lungs.

TB germs can live in your body without you knowing it. Your immune system traps TB germs with special germ fighters and this mechanism keeps the germs from making you sick.

The Mantoux skin test is the only way to tell if you have TB infection. The test is "positive" if a hump about

the size of a pencil eraser or bigger appears on your arm.

However, sometimes the TB germs can break away and spread. This is called TB disease. The germs can attack the lungs or other parts of the body, including the kidney, brain and spine. Medical help is necessary at this point to prevent death. HIV infection is very dangerous in this case, because people who are HIV-positive and carry TB germs run a great risk of contracting TB disease.

Only a doctor can determine if a person has TB disease. General symptoms include: weakness, loss of appetite and weight, fever or night sweats, persistent coughing, coughing up mucus or phlegm, coughing up blood, chest pains when coughing.

Medical Problems and their impact on Your Child

By Vivian Owens

You shake your head in frustration. First you punish Eddie for flying paper airplanes in school while the rest of the class read a funny story. Then, you take the opposite stance, offering him a reward for reading along with the others. Unfortunately, his teacher says Eddie's behavior is still getting worse.

All this is hard for you to understand, because your Eddie has always been obedient and attentive. At home, he's still good, little Eddie. It is possible that your son's undesirable classroom behavior has roots in other problems—problems he doesn't know how to solve?

Medical problems can sometimes interfere with a child's learning or school performance. But often parents ignore them.

A child complaining of headaches, squinting, rubbing his eyes, getting close up on words, may have vision problems.

Inner ear problems may cause imbalance, causing the child to topple over occasionally.

Recurrent sore throats, breathing through the mouth, recurrent ear infections often indicate tonsil or adenoid problems.

Your bed wetter may not be as lazy as you think. He may have a bladder or kidney infection or a defect in the anatomical development of the urinary system.

Has the teacher inquired about your daughter's tiredness? This thought she goes to bed at eight o'clock and gets a full 11 hour's sleep? Consider a checkup if this continues. Extreme fatigue can be a sign of a more serious problem.

The above are only a sampling of medical disturbances that may be at the root of a child's learning problems or poor performance.

You should become a detective when it comes to investigating your child's learning problems and remember, medical conditions can interfere with his or her's performance at school.

For a job well done



MOUNTAINSIDE—Plainfield residents Jacqueline Jones and Tonja Henderson were recently honored for twenty and ten years of employment, respectively, at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. Here, they are congratulated by CSH President, Richard Ahlfeld.

Take a test for good nutrition

UNION—The National Center for Nutrition and Dietetics reports that poor eating habits are linked to eight of the ten leading diseases in the United States, including diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers.

According to Leslie Killen, R.D., Coordinator of Clinical Nutrition at Union Hospital, the benefits of a healthy diet are indisputable. "Good eating habits and proper nutrition are vital for feeling healthy and alert," states Ms. Killen.

Before you prepare your next meal, see how your nutrition knowledge measures up by circling your answers to the following questions.

True or False?

1. Foods that are labeled "cholesterol free" may have high levels of saturated fat.
2. Of all vegetable oils, olive oil has the least fat and calories.
3. You should try to get at least 100 percent of the Daily Value for the nutrients listed on food labels.
4. Fiber helps lower blood cholesterol.
5. Whole milk contains more calcium than skim milk.
6. Fat is an important nutrient and necessary for good health.
7. Reduced-fat foods are always lower in calories than their regular counterparts.
8. Substituting protein for carbohydrates will help you lose weight.
9. Margarine is less fattening than butter.
10. Vitamins and minerals are a major source of energy.

The Answers

1. False. Thanks to regulations enacted in 1993, foods labeled low or non-cholesterol can have no more than two grams of saturated fat per serving. Before the rules shaped up, foods marketed as cholesterol free (implying heart healthy) often contained a hefty load of heart-harmful saturated fat.
2. False. Olive, corn and coconut oil all contain about the same amount of fat and calories. The difference lies in the mix of saturated and unsaturated

fats. Olive oil is rich in monounsaturated fat, which some evidence shows is best for the heart.

3. False. The Daily Values are indeed recommended minimums, the amounts listed for fat, cholesterol and sodium are recommended maximums.

4. True. Soluble fiber absorbs water in the intestine and forms a sticky gel that traps cholesterol and removes it from the body.

5. False. Skim milk contains just as much calcium as whole milk. In fact, some low and no-fat dairy products have even more calcium than their full-fat counterparts.

6. True. Fat helps supply your body with energy. It transports the vitamins A, D, E and K to your body's cells. Plus, it flavors food, the key is to avoid overindulging.

7. False. When the fat is taken out, other ingredients are added. In some cases, the combination of these ingredients adds as many calories as the fat they replaced.

8. False. Protein and carbohydrates both contain four calories per gram, and the body stores identical calories from both equally.

9. False. Margarine and butter have the same number of calories. Although both are types of fat, only butter contains cholesterol.

10. False. Energy comes from carbohydrates, and vitamins and minerals provide no calories. They simply help your body turn food into energy.

The Analysis

Give yourself one point for each correct answer. If you scored seven to 10 points, consider yourself a dietitian's dream! If you scored four to six points, you're on the right track. If you scored three points or less, consider seeking dietary advice.

For more information regarding proper diet and nutrition, consult your dietitian or physician. For assistance in obtaining a physician, contact CareFinders, Union Hospital's physician referral service, at 908-688-8777.

Black women must heal and value their lives

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—

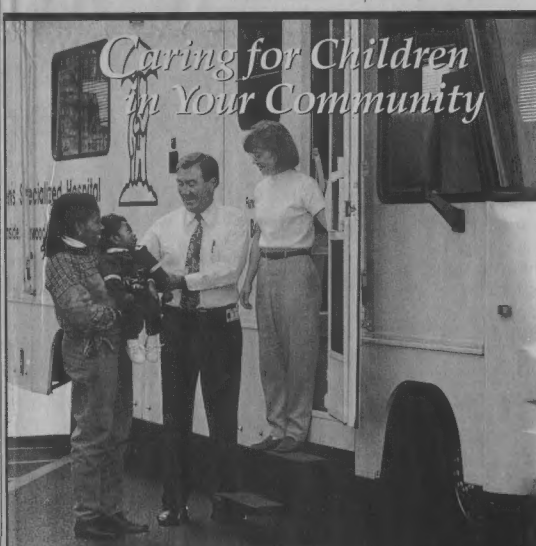
The National Center for Health Statistics rank Black women as the least happy group of people in this country. Author Earlley M. Manuel helps to change that by encouraging black women to use Black History Month as a catalyst to heal from the past and learn to value their lives. "Black History Month has always meant celebration of the things we have accomplished," says Manuel. "I believe this celebration should not only focus on our accomplishments, but must also recognize our collective pain and struggles to participate in the American experience. Black History can not truly be celebrated without healing from it."

Manuel believes black women are ready to heal. It seems others agree: in several months, her card and book set, *The Black Angels: A Healing Tool for African American Women*, have stimulated a trend of healing circles and have been passed to black women around the world: from California to India and Germany, Brazil to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, and across the United States. Featured on CNN, these small informal gatherings of friends use Manuel's boxed set of 36 vibrantly illustrated full-color Black Angel cards and companion book as a way of understanding their lives and

empowering themselves.

"The Black Angels can help to examine our collective past as black women and how that past has a present affect on our collective individual healing. As a tool, the cards and book can help us see our past as connected to our present and future lives. When we heal, we are not only healing for ourselves but for all spirits gone before us, all spirits with us, and all spirits to come. All that we have suffered is not ours alone, much of it comes from the past."

"Why are women embracing 'The Black Angels so readily? They fill a need for a process of self-discovery," says San Francisco-based healer Bola Colfield. "Black women have been waiting forever for these cards! African American women often stay away from traditional methods of psychology, they have always healed in a group." "Although anytime is a good time to begin healing from the past, remarks Manuel, Black History Month is an opportune time to affirm that we are loving and lovable; to claim our passion for life; and to ask for the protection, courage and comfort we need to continue living our lives to the fullest. Let the healing begin!" (view "The Black Angels" at www.LeaderSpirit.com)



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Charter schools hold open houses

NEWARK—Promising to offer Newark children "a whole new way of learning," the new Marion P. Thomas Charter School (MPTCS) recently held an open house session for parents interested in enrolling their children for kindergarten and first grade in the fall 1998 school year. Another open house is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. at the New Hope Baptist Church, 106 Sussex Avenue.

According to founder, Charter Schools, the Marion P. Thomas Charter School will offer a full-day kindergarten and first grade starting this fall with a summer academy starting in July 1999. The school will then expand each year and offer grades K-6 by 2002.

Thomas said charter schools are state-sanctioned but public schools that are financed by public district and private sources and operate with the same per-pupil level of funds as their area school district. However, they are governed by their own independent board of directors with complete authority over curriculum, faculty hiring, budget and operations. Charter school students are required to meet the same state academic standards as public school students. She added that the charter school concept is rapidly growing in popularity nationally and has been sanctioned and supported by President Bill Clinton in his national educational initiative.

Thomas added that the MPTCS will be distinctive in a number of ways. "Our teacher to pupil ratio will be 15:1—smaller than that of Newark public schools," she said. "Educational plans will be individualized and based on the student's achievements, interests and talents. Classroom education will be supported by tutoring and help sessions as well as in-class programs featuring parents, community mentors and role models. MPTCS will also offer extended before- and after-school care for children of working parents starting at 7:30 a.m. and continuing until 5:30 p.m." Patterson said. Extended care sessions will be tutoring and enrichment activities such as classes in computers, cooking, music, art, drama, photography, health activities and community service projects.

"Kindergartners who start this fall will have the opportunity to continue in the first grade summer academy," she said. The program will focus on a single-theme learning program," Patterson said.

The open houses offer parents an opportunity to learn more about the school, to meet members of its board of trustees and to fill out enrollment applications. Parents who wish to submit an application should bring proof of Newark residency, such as a utility bill or bank statement, and copies of each child's birth certificate and immunization record. Applications may also be obtained by calling the school at 973-242-6695. Space is limited for the school's first class this fall and, in the interest of fairness, students will be selected for admission through a lottery system to be held on Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m. at New Hope Baptist Church.

Nearly \$1 million in grants to teen pregnancy prevention programs

TRENTON—Governor Christie Whitman stressed personal responsibility and the need for greater education and outreach when she recently announced a grant awards totaling \$906,000 that will be used to combat teen pregnancy and offer help and guidance to teen-age mothers.

"Personal responsibility isn't just the latest catch phrase. Our future depends on all of us being more personally responsible and more personally invested in what goes on around us everyday," said Governor Whitman.

"The programs we are supporting today will help us win the battle against teen pregnancy and will help provide your youth with a real map to responsibility."

Last June, the Governor announced a \$1.1 million state teen pregnancy prevention initiative in the wake of a string of episodes where young mothers abandoned their newborn babies. In addition to the grants awarded today, the program is being used to fund a Department of Human Services Family Help Line (1-800-THE-KIDS) and to fund public education efforts around the issue of preventing teen pregnancy.

DHS received a total of 54 proposals for the grant program, which will fund 11 Healthy Youth Development projects, where an adult is a mentor to teen-age girls at risk of becoming pregnant; 10 Youth-to-Youth projects, where teens counsel their peers, and one technical assistance program that will train and support the 21 projects that have been established.

Converted mill building offers loft living

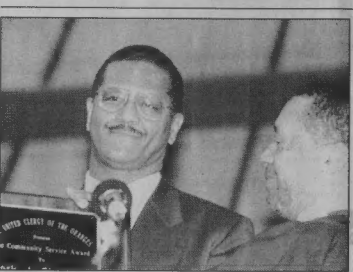
ORANGE—The Dubrow Management Company of Newark, New Jersey has announced the opening of Highland Lofts Condominiums, a former industrial mill building which has been converted into a nineteen unit residential condominium development, featuring loft living.

Every attempt was made to preserve the historic details of the early 1900s when the building served as home to a well-established New Jersey office furniture company. "During this time Essex County was home to many industrial and manufacturing companies and their handsome red brick buildings still stand in several communities. Many of them are still structurally sound and provide excellent redevelopment opportunities," remarked developer David Dubrow.

Orange Mayor Mimi Hackett was among many officials who attended a recent open house and tour of the building. "These units are a welcome addition to Orange's housing stock. This project is significant in that a vacant and underutilized building now has a new life. It upgrades an entire city block as a result of sidewalk, parking and landscaping improvements made by the developer and will once again add to the city's tax roll," commented Hackett. The details which have been preserved include red brick walls, exposed steel and wood beams, hardwood floors and wrought iron railings, 15 foot ceilings and 11 foot windows which are indicative of its old mill style architecture.



Most Highland Lofts Condo units include a full-sized bedroom with an oversized bathroom and a kitchen equipped with modern appliances. An exercise room, community room and laundry facilities are housed within a common area.



Mark Chastang, President and CEO of Essex Valley Healthcare, accepts the Community Service Award from the United Clergy of the Oranges from Reverend Byron Lennon.

Hospital receives award from local clergy

EAST ORANGE—Mark J. Chastang, President and CEO of Essex Valley Healthcare/East Orange General Hospital and other healthcare companies, recently accepted the Community Service Award from the United Clergy of the Oranges. The award was presented at the Clergy's Annual Martin Luther King Celebration. This year's program featured Reverend Calvin Butts, Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York. Chastang was presented the award from Reverend Byron Lennon, Reverend Dwight Gill, President of the United Clergy of the Oranges, said, Essex Valley Healthcare, particularly East Orange General Hospital, has truly taken on a pro-active role in providing wellness programs to not only East Orange, but Orange and other surrounding communities. Chastang said, "I accept this award on behalf of the over 1,800 employees of Essex Valley Healthcare, Inc." He added, "You have our commitment that we will continue to conduct community programs, wellness efforts and other initiatives such as our AIDS Walk-A-Thon to promote healthy living." Since Chastang assumed the leadership role at Essex Valley, the company has made significant improvements. The hospital has purchased a new CAT Scan, X-ray and nuclear medicine machines, mammograms, ultrasound and more. The hospital has also introduced a new Client Relations program to improve customer service to patients and visitors and is completing construction on a new Dialysis Center and physician office building.

seeks scholarship applicants

NEWARK—The Northern New Jersey Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), has announced its 1998 Scholarship Competition.

Persons eligible to apply are New Jersey students in their senior year of high school who are African American. In June, 1998, and in the upcoming fall, the winners of the placing final Scholarship recipients are eligible for awards of \$100.

Applicants should have an interest in becoming law enforcement officers or should support the goals of the law enforcement profession.

For information, write to: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 1472, Newark, NJ 07101. Deadline for return of completed applications is April 10. Scholarship winners will be asked to submit a paper for publication. Winners will be named during the NOBLE Annual Awards Dinner to be held at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Newark on May 1.

Subscribe to the #1 African American paper in the state

CITY NEWS

Call 908-754-3400

FREEDOM'S JOURNAL

— RIGHTS/VALUES REALITY & ACTION —

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1997. Vol. 2, No. 3.

For a full and complete understanding of the issues of the day, we must read the words of the great thinkers of the past. We must read the words of the great thinkers of the past. We must read the words of the great thinkers of the past.

TO OUR PATRONS: We are proud to have you as our patrons. We are proud to have you as our patrons. We are proud to have you as our patrons.

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The Black Press — A Force In The Fight For Equality

In the struggle for civil rights, the black press has always been in the forefront, extending the cry for equality from African-American communities into our society's mainstream. Publications like John Russwurm's *Freedoms Journal* and A. Philip Randolph's *The Messenger* gave voice to the nation's conscience, inspiring blacks and whites to search for common ground, and establishing a rich tradition that dates back more than 150 years.

Today, the black press remains a major force in our society — informing us, advising us and sometimes taking us to task. There is no deeper responsibility in the pen. During Black History Month, please join us in saluting the contributions of these outstanding publications.



PHILIP MORRIS U.S.A.

Dis + Illusion = reality (Accept!)

By Michael A. Grant, J.D.

"Either you deal with what is the reality or you can be sure that the reality is going to deal with you."
— Alex Haley

Mary T. fell madly in love with Jesse W. Through nine intensely romantic months, she was led to believe that Jesse was prepared to commit to her life. She returned early from an out-of-town visit with relatives and found Jesse in a compromising position with another woman in an apartment that she had jointly rented with him.

George S. loaned his best friend \$1,000 to cover an emergency. A year later, the loan had not been repaid and the "trusted" friend had moved to another city.

In the above scenarios, human beings, because of unexpected circumstances, become disillusioned. Each had been traumatized by a conflicting picture of reality that left them feeling vulnerable. Each had to come face-to-face with aspects of daily living that contradicted their expectations.

If we live long enough, each of us will also experience disillusionment. That which we hoped for sometimes gets overshadowed by that which we see get.

For many disillusionment is powerful enough a disincentive to extinguish the fires of their enthusiasm, to discourage their efforts, and to leave them feeling weak and small in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

As children, our untested optimism and boundless idealism allowed us to fantasize or daydream about a life of enchantment and fun. As we mature, reality, oftentimes, will test our resolve with difficult or harmful situations. Bewildered, we may lower their expectations of life in an attempt to shield themselves from further disappointment and pain. But capitulating in the face of adversity is a serious mistake.

Dr. Gary Emery, a psychotherapist, offers a powerful antidote to disillusionment's potential threat to our sense of well-being.

Dr. Emery advised each of us to use what he has termed the A.C.T. Formula. The "A" stands for accept. When we are confronted with bad

news or circumstances for which we were not prepared, our first line of defense is to say over and over to ourselves: "I accept it." Acceptance is not tantamount to saying I like it. I approve of it, or I will leave it untested. Acceptance is merely acknowledging that, at any given point in time, reality is presenting what reality is presenting. And frankly, much of the time, reality does not conform to our wishes.

By accepting real what is happening to us, we collaborate with reality. We embrace it for the lesson it is attempting to teach. We recognize that there will always be circumstances over which we have little control. But we don't stop there.

The next step is the "C" in the A.C.T. Formula. The "C" represents our choice in how we will respond to an undesired state of affairs. We cannot control all of life's unfortunate

incidents but we most definitely can control how we respond to them. Therefore, in the face of disenchantment, rather than becoming disillusioned or overwhelmed and ready to give up, we switch gears and choose new visions from a limitless list of possibilities that are available to us.

And lastly, the "T" in the A.C.T. Formula challenges us to take action. By taking action, we rob the would-be debilitating outcome of its devastating impact on our lives and harness our inner resources to move ahead in spite of our temporary set-backs.

Let us break the word disillusion into its two main components: Dis = do the opposite; illusion = to mock at; a misleading image presented to the vision; something that deceives or misleads intellectually.

So what the word means simply is this: When we are disillusioned, we are forced to face the truth that people

and situations do not always conform to our wishes (i.e., our illusions). If we insist in believing that things should always go as we desire, we will continue to be mocked by the over-shadowing reality that they do not.

Thus the title of this essay: Dis + Illusion = Reality. Reality is truth. Reality is what is real. We move ahead when we recognize the truth, accept the truth, and live by the truth. Any other approach to life will leave us baffled, bullied and tortured.

The next time reality forces you to abandon your illusion of what ought to be, don't curse your fate and withdraw in defeat. On the contrary, choose to alter your picture of what is really real, graciously accept the grand teacher's (reality) lesson and get busy drafting new, more realistic blueprints that will find you not wallowing in fantasy but rather wondering in a world that reality is fantastic!

Who Do You Serve?

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"A man cannot control two horses, or bend two bows. A servant cannot obey two masters, for he must honor the one and despise the other. Nobody at once drinks old wine and desires new. Nor is new wine packed within old skins, lest they perish. An old patch is not grafted upon new clothes, for it will tear." Saying #47 from The Gospel of Thomas.

When we were children we were admonished to stick to one thing at a time, that we couldn't do two things simultaneously. The saying quoted from the Gospel of Thomas indicates this truth and points to the necessity of being single minded and focused.

The truth of the matter is, try as we may we cannot think two thoughts simultaneously. We can only hold one thought, image, idea or concept in our consciousness at a time. However, we can vacillate back and forth between two points of view, two ideas, decisions or desires. This is called being double-minded, indecisive or wishy-washy. In order to be successful or to accomplish your goals you must decide on a course of action and stick to it. This doesn't mean that you can't re-evaluate your plans and objectives, or change or alter

them if necessary. It does mean however that you cannot decide to go north and then knowingly travel in a southeasterly direction. That would be like attempting to ride two horses pulling in opposite directions.

I say all this to remind you that you can't serve two masters. You can't be sober and drink and do drugs. You can't do to do big things with boldness and then wimp out every time you're faced with a challenge or problem. You can't say you want to be successful and then procrastinate or engage in self-sabotaging activities. You can't say you want to empower yourself, but acquiesce to the wishes and dictates of someone else. You can't work in your own best interest while simultaneously serving your adversaries, unless their interests are identical to yours.

Who are you serving? Whose belief system motivates and animates you? Whose philosophy and world view do you espouse? Are you a Marxist, a socialist, a capitalist, a Muslim or a Christian? Do you know the origin of these doctrines? Have you given them serious/independent scrutiny? Do they satisfy your spiritual, psychological and intellectual needs? Does your religion espouse one creed, but its history demonstrates another? Do you think for

yourself or do CNN, ABC, CBS and NBC define your world. Are you serving the creator or are you serving a man-made institution that purports to speak for God?

When was the last time you had a conversation or meditation where the Holy One spoke directly to your heart? Do you get everything you know about God second-hand? Are you aware of the Divine Presence or are you unconsciously that the Kingdom of God is in you and around you?

As we African people have been subjected to a most brutal form of dehumanization, dehumanization, dehumanization as well as an anti-African propaganda campaign. No wonder we have ourselves and act in ways unbecoming Africans. We were turned from Yoruba, Dahomey, Ibo and countless other African tribal groupings into Negroes or worse. We were programmed to do the bidding of our slave masters. They trained us to think against ourselves, to never think of challenging their authority, world view or power. Who do you serve today? Do you still serve the slave master and his vile notions of White supremacy and African inferiority? Do you hate yourself and love him/her?

Do you serve your materialistic wants and desires? Have you abandoned your search for God/Divinity/wholeness. Do you spend all your time getting high, making other people rich or selling your soul/faith/credibility for a few dollars more? You cannot drink the wine of White supremacy and desire the sobriety of African liberation. Does it make sense to dye the old raggedy heart garments of self-hatred with superficial symbols and trappings of Africa while conducting our affairs in the same old way? We cannot serve two masters and we cannot pretend not to know this.

We repeat what we say. We must determine who we serve and live with integrity with that decision. There are many forces arrayed against us. However we have the power to regain control of our mind, our thoughts and our actions. Time is of the essence. "Choose ye this day whom you will serve."

Black History Month Calendar

Black History month is little more than half over, and yet there are still many interesting activities from which to choose. The following are just some of the way you can support and celebrate your culture.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Times in the Mirror: Anna Deaver Smith's haunting look at the 1981 Crown Heights riot confrontation, will be presented at Montclair State University's Memorial Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 973-655-5112.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—African Poets: Poets Slaves to Teach: By Di Chinedu Nnamah-Okye will be held in the Student Center Ballrooms at Montclair State University. For more info, call 973-655-4198.

EDISON—The Police and the African-American Community, lecture by Hassan Sami, at 11:00 a.m., Room 103, College Center in Middlesex County College. For more info, call 732-906-2566.

WAYNE—"Sankofa," will be shown in the PAL lounge in the Student Center at 8:00 p.m. For more info, call 973-720-3103.

JERSEY CITY—An unveiling and dedication of the Jackie Robinson Statue will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the Journal Square PATH Station. For more info, call 212-290-8600.

MORRISTOWN—Dramatist Ladumay will perform in the Mahogany Library Octagon from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Ladumay's The Black Experience - A Cry for World Peace, creates a dramatic experience through a collage of poetry, prose, drama, and song depicting the African-American experience from slavery. For more info, call 973-290-4442.

ELIZABETH—"A Song is Born," a free film will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Elizabeth Public Library. For more info, call 908-354-6000.

ATLANTIC CITY—The 29th Annual Black Arts Show will exhibit at the Atlantic City Arts Center through March 25th. For more info, call 609-347-5837.

NEWARK—Robeson: Athlete, Activist and Artist Extraordinaire will be showcased at Newark Public Library through March 31st. For more info, call 973-773-7735.

ATLANTIC CITY—Art in Celebration of Black History Month will showcase paintings and other artwork at the Atlantic Community College through February 28th. For more info, call 609-343-5040.

TRENTON—Sculptures by Terry Ford will be on display at the NJ State Museum. For more info, call 609-292-6464.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

EAST ORANGE—A weekend music seminar will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Black United Fund. For more info, call 973-676-1087.

NEWARK—Verse 4 Verse combines the finest in Poetry reading by poets from the tri-state area, live bands and lyrical entertainers. The program is produced by Ras Baraka and Jerry Gant and hosted by Juba. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. at The African Globe Studios. For more info, call 973-624-1584.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—A conference on "The Path of the Slave: Africa, South America, Caribbean, North America" will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Brant Lecture

Hall in Dickson Hall at Montclair State University. For more info, call 973-655-5143.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A poetry slam, by Middlesex County College students will be presented at 6:30 p.m. at Middlesex County College, New Brunswick Center. For more info, call 732-829-2569.

NEW YORK—Holocaust University presents the documentary film presentation "John Henrik Clarke: A Great and Mighty Walk" and lecture by the film's producer and writer, St. Clare Bourne at 8:00 p.m. in the Student Center Theater, North Campus, Hofstra University. For more info, call 516-463-5669.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

NEWARK—Battle of the Rhythms, an African Globes in house dance troupe, the Sankofa African Dance Ensemble, will be presenting dance recitals at Rutgers Law school at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 973-824-1054.

NEWARK—The works of Essex County College alumna and Newark resident, Glenn "Hassan" Hamilton will be showcased from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the library. For more info, call 973-877-3208.

EAST ORANGE—A weekend music seminar will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Black United Fund. For more info, call 973-676-1087.

EDISON—A closing ceremony featuring African dance, drums and poetry will be held at 12 noon in the Main lounge, College Center, Middlesex County College. For more info, call 732-906-2566.

ELIZABETH—Elizabeth Charles Chorale Ensemble Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Union Baptist Church. The admission is free.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

NEWARK—A film, "Memories of Duke" is a loving tribute to jazz legend Duke Ellington and his band, featuring historic scenes from early film and interviews with band members, will be shown at 1:00 p.m. in the Billy Johnson Auditorium in The Newark Museum. "Say Amen, Somebody" is a rousing documentary about gospel music will be shown also. For more info, call 973-596-6550.

EAST ORANGE—A weekend music seminar will be held at 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at The Black United Fund of NJ. For more info, call 973-676-1087.

NEWARK—Essex County College sponsors its Children's Book Festival in celebration of African American History Month. The festival will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the Level II Forum at the college's main Newark campus. For more info, call 973-877-3436.

CAMDEN—Rutgers-Camden's Black Student Union will sponsor a fashion show at 7:30 p.m. in the lounge of the Campus Center, Rutgers University.

ELIZABETH—A Musical Celebration of Kwanzaa featuring the Urban League All-Star Theater Group will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Elizabeth's Public Library. For more info, call 908-354-6000.

CITY NEWS
Black United Fund is on a mission of service

CITY NEWS
Defining who we are

Following in the tradition of the Black Press, *CITY NEWS* continues to strive to be the source of black issues, concerns and achievements.

Far from the stereotypes that portray black people in the general media, *CITY NEWS* stories clearly reflect a people who are law-abiding, God-fearing and who value family, education and quality living.

Now, more than ever, black people must come together across religions, organizations, fraternal orders, professions, and communities to make a firm statement about who we are, what we stand for, and what we will do to achieve our collective goals. These goals include religious freedom, equal protection under the law, civil and voting rights, quality education for all black children, quality housing, jobs, access to opportunity and economic development in black communities.

During March, Black Press Month, *CITY NEWS* launches *The Network*, a partnership to unite and inform people throughout New Jersey about the progress of New Jersey's black communities and the people who are making things happen.

For more information, call 908.754.3400 to obtain The Network guide or fax us at 908.753.1036.

CITY NEWS
Defining who we are

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Defining who we are

Are you looking for a better start for your child's future?

Starting this fall, the new Marion P. Thomas Charter School will offer Newark parents an educational institution where their children can learn and grow in a challenging, caring atmosphere with personalized instruction. While the Marion P. Thomas Charter School is a state-sanctioned, publicly funded school, it will be run by *Newarkers for Newarkers* with an independent school board that relies on the direction of parents and community members. Before- and after-school care will be available.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in kindergarten and first grade for the fall 1998 semester can find out more about the Marion P. Thomas Charter School by attending one of our open houses.

Marion P. Thomas Charter School Open House

When: Saturday, February 28 at 9 a.m.
Wednesday, March 4 at 7 p.m.
Where: New Hope Baptist Church,
106 Sussex Avenue, Newark

Remember to bring: Proof of Newark residency (such as driver's license, utility bill, or bank statement), and each child's birth certificate and immunization record.

The Marion P. Thomas Charter School is open to children of every race, religion and nationality.

For more information, call 973-242-6695

ARTZ Wednesday

February 25-March 3, 1996

CITY NEWS B4

Billboard

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

201-529-7050

JERSEY CITY—Pianist Heather O'Donnell will perform in a Jersey City State College "Me-My Day Concert" at 12 p.m. in room 202 of Hapburn Hall, on the College campus. For more info, call 201-200-3426.

CALDWELL—The Caldwell College Visiting Art Gallery will kick off its spring exhibition season exploring 19th and 20th century photographic methods by six artists, with a special reception from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more info, call 973-222-4424, ext. 457.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

NEW YORK—Kenny Washington to host Drums Unlimited, Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2nd Jazz on Film Program at Walter Reade Theater at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. For more info, call 212-875-5389.

WAYNE—I.M. Pei, one of the most renowned architects of the 20th Century will be the focus of the Art at Lunch lecture at William Paterson University at 11:30 a.m. in the Ben Shahn Galleries on campus. For more info, call 973-720-2654.

MAHWAH—Internationally acclaimed jazz and saxophone, Horace Peterson and veteran song stylist, Etta Jones will be in concert at Ramapo College of NJ at 7 p.m. in Friends Hall. For more info, call 973-642-7717.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

BRIDGEWATER—Recording artist Ms. Came Jackson and her all star quartet will perform 8 p.m. at Borders Books Music Café. For more info, call 908-231-0111.

WESTFIELD—The 37th Annual Novice Quartet contest will be held at 4 p.m. at the Roosevelt Intermediate School. For more info, call 908-233-7188.

NEW BRUNSWICK—"To Kill a Mockingbird" will be held at 5 p.m. at the George Street Playhouse. For more info, call 732-642-7717.

NEWARK—Scholarship Auditions for the Dance Academy program directed by Alvin Ailey, Alfred Gallman will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Newark Community School of the Arts. For more info, call 973-642-0133.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Theatre Crafts for Young People ages 5-17 will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the George Street Playhouse. For more info, call 732-642-7717, ext. 1187.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Creative Dramatics for Young People ages 5-17 will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the George Street Playhouse. For more info, call 732-642-7717, ext. 1187.

Stage presentations

The Lost Jazz Shrines rediscovered "The Lion"

Absolute Jazz: The Lost Jazz Shrines
Saturday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.
Victoria Theater, NJPAC

NEWARK—Duke Ellington once said, "The best place in the world to listen to black music is Newark." During the early decades of the 20th century, Newark's East District was one of four busy centers (the others were Hell's Kitchen, New York City, The Levee, Chicago, The Barbary Coast, San Francisco) where African American culture was fostered.

Absolute Jazz: The Lost Jazz Shrines, is an original NJPAC concert event that celebrates Newark's rich jazz history with an evening program featuring the music of Newark jazz legend Willie "The Lion" Smith. Presented by NJPAC in association with the Newark Music Project, a program specialized by poet and dramatist Amir Baraka, the program includes the debut of the newly formed New Arkestra, a 15-piece jazz ensemble with vocalists.



The music of Willie "The Lion" Smith will be rediscovered at Absolute Jazz: The Lost Jazz Shrines.

'Queen of the Harlem Renaissance' holds court



Elizabeth Van Dyke portrays Zora Neale Hurston in a free presentation on the Monclair State campus.

'Zora Neale Hurston'

Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m. Memorial Auditorium, Montclair State University

MONTCLAIR—A dramatic theatrical biography of the "Queen of the Harlem Renaissance," Zora Neale Hurston dramatically chronicles the rise and fall of an extraordinary literary career. As one of the most prolific African American writers of the 1920s and 1930s, Hurston was a larger-than-life figure. The play was written by Laurence Holder and directed by Wynn Handman. The story of Hurston's life is a journey that is both brilliant and independent. She was a controversial individual whose strong opinions both angered and inspired her contemporaries and later generations of young black writers. The free event is part of the Women's History Month celebration at MSU. For further information, call the MSU Box Office at 973-655-5112.

Upcoming CD's show Sisters are doin' it for themselves

'A Rose Is A Rose,'

The Queen of soul's CD hits stores March 10

Arista recording artist Aretha Franklin

has put the finishing touches on a new CD, "A Rose Is A Rose," an all-star affair that teams the legendary singer with hit making producers Sean "Puffy" Combs, Daryl Simmons, Jermaine Dupri, and others. Aretha Franklin's new CD, "A Rose Is A Rose," is scheduled for a March 10 release date.

A Rose Is A Rose is the 49th career album by the 15-time Grammy award winning artist. It is also Aretha's first new studio recording in over six years, since "What You See Is What You Get" in 1991, the same year she received the Grammy Legend Award.

In the interim, Greatest Hits (1980-1994) was released four years ago, coinciding with Aretha's Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

writer, producer and arranger of the title single, "A Rose Is A Rose," who also directed the video. The CD is scheduled for a March 10 release date. A Rose Is A Rose is the 49th career album by the 15-time Grammy award winning artist. It is also Aretha's first new studio recording in over six years, since "What You See Is What You Get" in 1991, the same year she received the Grammy Legend Award. In the interim, Greatest Hits (1980-1994) was released four years ago, coinciding with Aretha's Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Off the hook

Fat Beats and Bra Straps in stores March 17

Many women helped give birth to hip-hop in the '80s. To celebrating Women's History Month, Rhano Records, the first-ever, all-female hip-hop series, "Fat Beats and Bra Straps" is designed and produced by women for women from the artwork to the title, all the way down to the liner notes.

From the old school classics like Run-DMC's "My Adidas" to the new MC's like Heather "T.L.O." Love and What You See Is What You Get, the mission of Fat Beats and Bra Straps is to break the misconception that hip-hop is comprised solely of male artists. By showcasing female talent, the history is changed forever and finally becomes HERstory.

In Her Own Words

Black Pearls: The Poetry Of Maya Angelou

Makes CD Debut March 17

This seminal collection from one of America's most distinguished contemporary writers, Black Pearls: The Poetry Of Maya Angelou, includes 33 inspiring poems, off-set by five jazz inter-blacks written and composed by Ed Bland.

BLACK PEARLS is a collection of readings that were originally heard on the 1969 album, The

Poetry Of Maya Angelou, now long out of print. Most of the poems were first published in her 1971 book, Just Give Me A Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Diie. The poems were Angelou's response to her struggles growing up in the South, where she and her brother were sent to live with relatives following their parent's divorce.

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by Annette R. Hunter

Rhythm & Blues pioneers honored

WASHINGTON—Former Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, Smokey Robinson will act as master of ceremonies of the Rhythm & Blues Foundation 11th Annual Pioneer Awards. Previous pioneer award honorees who will give the distinction to this year's Pioneer recipients include last year's mistress of ceremonies Aretha Franklin, Harvey Fuqua and Mable John.

Other presenters include Ashford & Simpson, Blackstreet, Coolio, and Dee Dee Bridgewater. Rounding out the list of presenters are Dr. Hui, Lauryn Hill, Gerald Levert, Kenny Mahogany, Branford Marsalis, Ruth Brown, Meco Paredes and Bonnie Raitt.

An official program of Grammy Week, the Ninth Annual Pioneer Awards gala will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26, at the New York Sheraton. Fostering wide recognition, financial support and historic and cultural preservation of rhythm and blues artists of the '40s, '50s and '60s, the Rhythm & Blues Foundation provides emergency funds and services to artists in need. Ruth Brown will be one of the presenters at the Ninth Annual Pioneer Awards.

Badu and Heavy D announce nominees for Soul Train Music Awards



The 12th Annual Soul Train Music Awards nominations luncheon was hosted by popular new recording artist Erykah Badu, center, and Legendary Rapper Heavy D, left. One of the people welcoming the soulful duo to the luncheon is Don Cornelius, creator and founder of Soul Train. Soul Diva LaBealle will join Badu and Heavy D as hosts of the Awards show telecast live on Friday, February 27.

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Scoop Du Jour

It's playing at the Giffen theater in Los Angeles. Too bad it's in L.A., because a play on Harlem Thuman during black history month—or during any month for that matter—is a misce.

Well, don't despair, there is a play we New Yorkers can sink our minds into. Ruby Dee is doing a presentation of "One Good Nerve": A Visit With Ruby Dee, a display that clearly demonstrates why sanity and happiness prevailed—according to one black woman's story, run through March 8 at the Danny Kaye Playhouse at 68th Street between Park and Lexington in NYC. I went to see the play and the ending, where she reflects upon the civil rights struggle, was particularly moving. I asked Ms. Dee whether she felt more comfortable on stage or in films and she responded, "I have so many things to do and I've done so many on both screen and stage. Oh, I've been out there, I praise God about still being able to accept projects, I'm glad they're still being offered. I'm a platform performer and a lot of this performance comes from the book. I wrote some time back, but about one-third of it is the same. But when I'm performing on screen with youngsters like Savion Glover—who is a remarkable young man by the way—I know that

it's playing at the Giffen theater in Los Angeles. Too bad it's in L.A., because a play on Harlem Thuman during black history month—or during any month for that matter—is a misce.

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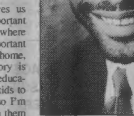
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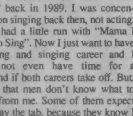
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Ruby Dee

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus, New Jersey will accept proposals for upgrading its existing computer system located at the Authority's central office, 700 County Avenue, Secaucus, New Jersey. All services must comply with federal, state, local laws and be in accordance with the existing rules, policies, directives, regulations and handbooks promulgated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the State of New Jersey.

The services that are requested will be as follows:

1. Upgrade the Authority's existing computer system by installing the hardware and software contained in the "Proposal Submission Form".
2. Ensure that all equipment and software are properly functioning at the completion of the work, including the Local Area Network (LAN).
3. Protect the Authority's existing programs and data during the installation of process;
4. Transfer all programs, data and other information to ensure that the Authority's existing program function properly within the context of the scope of the new operating system (Windows 95);
5. Include all items that are necessary to ensure that the new system operates effectively and efficiently in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;
6. All labor, materials and equipment necessary for upgrading the Authority's existing PCs and LAN will be included within the scope of the price submitted by the vendor (or vendors).
7. Complete all work within 5 working days;
8. Make recommendations for enhancing the system's efficiency;
9. Provide standard industry accepted manufacturer warranties on all hardware and software.

Qualifications:

1. Must have a minimum of 5 years experience in comparable work of the size and magnitude;
2. Must be approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide these services;
3. Must be approved installers by the manufacturers of the hardware and software being utilized (if applicable).

Proposal Submission:

All persons interested in submitting a proposal for upgrading the Housing Authority's computer system should submit a proposal based upon a lump sum. The following documents should be submitted with the proposal:

1. Completed "Proposal Submission Form";
2. A Certificate of Insurance;
3. Copies of any applicable licenses for installing the hardware and software;
4. A listing of a minimum of ten (10) references for comparable projects.

Proposals should be delivered to the Housing Authority of the Town of Secaucus, 700 County Avenue, Secaucus, New Jersey on or before March 28, 1998 by 4:00 p.m. Vendors should submit two (2) copies of their proposal in a sealed envelope labeled "Proposal or Computer Upgrade". The proposals will be opened at the March 29th meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

WILLIAM F. SYNDER
Executive Director

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Invitation to Bid

The Housing Authority of the City of Atsby Park will be bid for Examination Services due to discrepancies in the specifications, sealed bids for Examination services at N.J. 1-7-2, 3-7-4, 7-5, 7-6 and 7-7 will be received until 10:00 a.m. on March 2, 1998 at the Administrative Office located on 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Atsby Park, New Jersey 07712 and where and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held February 23, 1998 at the Administrative Office at 1:00 p.m. at which time you will be able to visit the site.

Specifications are available from the Housing Authority of the City of Atsby Park, 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Atsby Park, New Jersey. Please contact the Maintenance Office, (732) 774-3660 for information.

The Housing Authority of the City of Atsby Park reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Authority also reserves the right not to open bids if fewer than 2 are received.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

AUDIT SERVICES

The Atsby Park Housing Authority of the City of Atsby Park, New Jersey (the "PHA"), is requesting proposals from qualified firms to conduct an audit of its financial books and records for the twelve (12) month period ending March 31, 1998. The audit will be conducted according to the requirements of the Single Audit Act of 1984, OMB Circular A-133 and other requirements as may be promulgated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or the State of New Jersey.

Proposals must be made on the proposal format available from the PHA. Interested parties can obtain a proposal format by calling (732) 774-2650 X213.

Proposals should be received in an original and seven copies, not later than 10 a.m., February 27, 1998, at the following address and clearly marked "Audit Search".

Atsby Park Housing Authority
1000 1/2 Third Ave.
Atsby Park, NJ 07712

Attention: "Audit Search"

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL

The Housing Authority of the City of Atsby Park is seeking proposals from attorneys or law firms to serve as the Authority's General Legal Counsel for the period commencing April 1, 1998 and terminating March 31, 1999. After submitting proposals to the RFP must be licensed to practice law in the State of New Jersey and must not be under sanction from HUD.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal in response to the RFP should contact the Executive Director's office at (732) 774-2650 X913, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays and request a detailed RFP, which will more fully state the requirements of the proposal. Proposals must be received by 10:00 a.m., February 27, 1998, in order to be considered.

Claudia A. Sweeney
Executive Director

LEGAL NOTICE

ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION
110 SOUTHVIEW STREET, EAST ORANGE, N.J.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Essex County Board of Taxation has changed the March 5, 1998 board meeting to Monday, March 2, 1998 at 9:30 a.m.

George F. Librizzi, Tax Administrator

\$22.10

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Consultation and Technical Assistance in Constructing and Submitting a Revised Five Year Plan

The New Brunswick Housing Authority (the Authority) owns, operates and maintains four complexes consisting of 563 low-income public housing units. Schwartz Homes (200 units), Robeson Village (59 units), Memorial Homes (240 units) and Hoffman Pavilion (59 units) are all maintained and managed by the Authority. The Authority is seeking Consultation and Technical Assistance in Constructing and Submitting a Revised Five Year Plan.

SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED

The Authority is seeking written proposals for Consultation and Technical Assistance in Constructing and Submitting a Revised Five Year Plan. The plan must be completed and made ready for Board approval within a 30 - 45 day period from the date of the award of the contract and must also include the following:

An overall plan and time table for implementation of approved modification programs, including physical and management improvements, etc.

The plan must work in conjunction with the City's Five Year Plan.

The Consultant must also provide technical assistance to the PHA staff on other issues related to overall HUD management requirements for submission of a Revised Five Year Plan.

The plan must meet all HUD Rules and Regulation including any meeting and/or Public meeting (and Local Government) review requirements.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Consultant should provide written information and data on the Company's qualifications and experience

and demonstrate its ability to perform the requested services outlined in this RFP. The Consultant will be selected based upon the responses to the five mentioned requested information and the proposals will be reviewed in accordance with the "Competitive Proposal" process outlined in HUD's Procurement Handbook.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Responses to this RFP are to be submitted to the following:

John A. Clark
New Brunswick Housing Authority
71 Nelson Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

All responses must be submitted to the above mentioned office on or before the March 5th, 1998 (the end of the business day).

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted and to waive any informality, and to request additional information from any and/or all respondent.

New Brunswick Housing Authority
John A. Clark
Chief of Staff/Acting Executive Director

\$148.50

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Management Consultation Services for Comprehensive Grant Programs (CGP)

The New Brunswick Housing Authority (the Authority) owns, operates and maintains four complexes consisting of 563 low-income public housing units. Schwartz Homes (200 units), Robeson Village (59 units), Memorial Homes (240 units) and Hoffman Pavilion (59 units) are all maintained and managed by the Authority. Currently the Authority has entered and is operating all of CGP's 700, 700, 700, 700 & 700.

SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED

The Authority is seeking "written proposals for a Professional Management Consultants to provide the following services relating to the Authority's Comp. Grant Programs:

*Provide all necessary application documents for continued CGP funding and prepare all necessary HUD reporting documents related to the CGP for all active years.

*Develop an overall plan and time table for implementation of approved modification programs, including physical and management improvements.

*Coordinate the requirement for funds on a timely basis.

*Establish administrative controls over key income and outgoing documents and other issues related to overall HUD management requirements.

*Provide technical assistance to the PHA staff on procurement, management and other issues related to overall HUD management requirements.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Consultant should provide written information and data on the Company's qualifications and experience and demonstrate its ability to perform the requested services outlined in this RFP. The Consultant will be selected based upon the responses to the five mentioned requested information and the proposals will be reviewed in accordance with the "Competitive Proposal" process outlined in HUD's Procurement Handbook.

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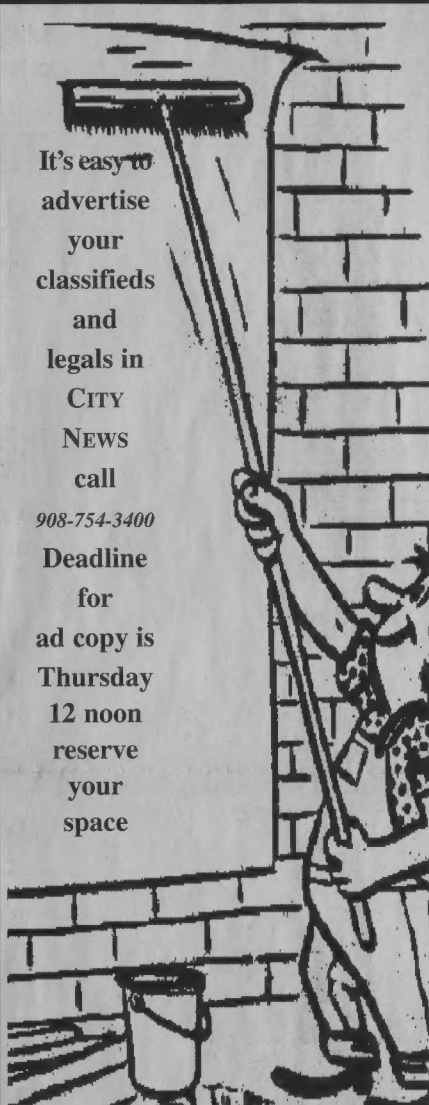
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New Brunswick Housing Authority

John A. Clark
Chief of Staff/Acting Executive Director

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Thursday, February 26th 8:00-10:00 am
American Express Financial Advisors
35 Westview Boulevard
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Friday, February 27th from
8:00-10:00 am or 3:00-5:00 pm
Woodbridge Hilton Hotel
120 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08850

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City News Personnel
PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

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who see them to make their own mark on the future.

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